

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO AMEND THE INDIAN HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT TO ENSURE CURRENT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce legislation that will help to protect the health care provided to Native Americans by the Indian Health Service.

Providing quality health care is one of the most important Federal responsibilities in Indian country. Through a network of service units scattered across the country and across South Dakota, the Indian Health Service is the primary, and often the only, access point to that care.

For this reason, any service reduction at any service unit should be preceded by a thorough and thoughtful analysis of the impacts of the reduction proposal, an evaluation of alternative options, and meaningful tribal consultation at every step. Current law recognizes this and already requires that IHS conduct an impact study before implementing a reduction.

Unfortunately, the law contains a critical oversight and specifies only that the study occur at least 1 year before any service reduction. It contains nothing to prevent an outdated study from being inappropriately used to justify a service reduction. This legislation would correct that mistake—mandating that the study occur 1 year, but not more than 2 years, before the actual service reduction. This will ensure that any analysis will reflect current conditions, not ones that no longer exist.

This is a small and reasonable change that is both consistent with the intent of existing statute and, I think, an important improvement. Though introduced as a stand alone measure today, I am hopeful that my amendment can later be added to Indian Health Care Improvement Act Amendments moving through this Congress.

TRIBUTE TO META JACKSON

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Meta Jackson for continuously serving the Juniata Township Election Board for the past 50 years. Meta will be honored at a ceremony on November 7 for her service to the community.

Meta started as an election inspector in 1956 during the Dwight Eisenhower-Adlai Stevenson Presidential race. At the time the paper election ballots were counted by hand and the counting often extended into the next day. She has told her current fellow poll workers that in the 1950s they would be up 24 hours straight working to get every ballot counted. Meta has served as the chair of the Election Board for several decades and has witnessed many changes over the years. Today the township uses opti-scan machines and automark loading terminals for the disabled that count the ballots as they run through the system.

In addition to serving as an election official for the past 50 years, Meta is active in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary, Ladies of the Moose, and the Caro Eagles. She has lived in Juniata Township since the age of 5 and graduated from Caro High School. She married the late Walter Jackson in 1953 and moved to the family dairy farm. Meta and Walter have four children and nine grandchildren. Meta continues to help out on the family farm by doing the recordkeeping and running errands.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Meta Jackson for 50 years as an election official and wish her the best as she continues her service to the community.

THE DISABLED WARRIORS' FAMILY EDUCATION ACT OF 2006

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce H.R. 6096 the Disabled Warriors' Family Education Act of 2006. I am especially pleased that the Ranking Member of the Veterans Affairs Committee Honorable LANE EVANS, and the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity Honorable JOHN BOOZMAN and Honorable STEPHANIE HERSETH join me as original cosponsors.

The Disabled Warriors' Family Education Act of 2006 would allow spouses and dependent children to access their Survivors' and Dependents' Education Assistance under chapter 35 of title 38, U.S.C. prior to the severely injured servicemember being discharged from active duty.

Many of our disabled warriors have spouses who find themselves faced with being the breadwinner of the family. It is important that these individuals have access to their education benefits to improve their ability to compete in the job market. Therefore, once the servicemember receives a VA rating stating that their injuries are permanent and total in nature, the servicemember's spouse, and college-aged dependent children may begin their education during the servicemember's convalescence period, which in some instances may be 2 years.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important piece of legislation that will help families of our servicemembers who have sacrificed so much for the safety of our nation in the Global War on Terrorism, and I urge my colleagues to support the Disabled Warriors' Family Education Act of 2006.

DENTON RECEIVES SECOND STORMREADY RECOGNITION

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the City of Denton, TX, for receiving its second StormReady recognition. I commend Mayor Perry McNeill and the City of

Denton's Office of Emergency Management for their commitment to supporting broader region and State efforts, both in planning and response, to the weather-related challenges we have faced in 2006.

The National Weather Service issues StormReady recognition to cities, such as Denton, that establish a level of preparedness beyond the minimum standards of severe weather operations. These leading cities are selected based on their readiness in six areas, including the receipt of National Weather Service information, local weather and water monitoring, local warning distribution, communication of information to the National Weather Service in Fort Worth, community preparedness, and administrative tools. The City of Denton met or exceeded each of these areas.

Under the capable direction of Denton's Emergency Manager Michael Penaluna, Mayor McNeill and the City of Denton have demonstrated their commitment to protecting and preparing citizens for severe weather emergencies. Thanks to the hard work of these individuals, the City of Denton is a safer place and a model for communities around the nation.

I extend my sincerest congratulations to the City of Denton, Mayor Perry McNeill and the Office of Emergency Management on receiving their second StormReady emergency response recognition.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOSEPH PATRICK LEE

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and mourn the passing of, Dr. Joseph Patrick Lee, the provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at Barry University in Miami Shores, Florida.

Dr. Lee was an institution at Barry University, known throughout the Barry family and to generations of students. He was an extraordinary scholar and an excellent administrator. He served quietly, competently, and well, helping to develop and expand Barry College into the major University it is today. His passing is a huge loss.

Dr. Lee was also an integral part of the South Florida community for over 25 years. He served on the boards of directors of numerous community groups, including president of the Miami Shores Chamber of Commerce and Rotary Club of Miami Shores. Dr. Lee's many honors included: the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship; Danforth Foundation National Fellowship; Fulbright Fellowship, Université de Paris; and National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Fellowship. He was elected Commissioner of Florida's Southern Association of Colleges and Schools from 2000–05, and served on its executive council in 2004.

Born November 30, 1942, in Leitchfield, Kentucky, Dr. Lee came to Barry University from Belmont Abbey College in Belmont, North Carolina, where he held the positions of vice president for academic affairs; academic dean; and associate professor of French. His love of language led him to earn his doctor of